Proceedings of the Mysore Representative Assembly, 1915.

MEMORANDUM.

The thirty-second session of the Mysore Representative Assembly was held in the Durbar Hall of the Public Offices at Mysore on Tuesday, the 19th October 1915, and succeeding days, the Dewan Sir M. Visvesvaraya, K.C.I.E., presiding.

2. In accordance with the system of triennial election instituted in 1894, the 8th election of members to the Representative Assembly fell due this year and was held in the month of *Jyeshta*. The election rules were slightly revised, candidates being required among other things to notify their desire to stand for election one month before the date fixed for the election. The dates for the several preliminary events such as the submission of the representations to be brought forward, the District meeting for selection of subjects, etc., were all fixed a month earlier than usual.

3. The number of electorates, the number of seats for which members had to be returned, and the number actually returned were as shown below:—

	Number due.	Number actually returned.
Representatives from 68 taluks including sub-taluks ...	212	211
Representatives from 27 Municipalities	42	40
Representatives from 8 Local Boards	16	14
Representatives from 20 Associations	20	19
Total ...	290	284

The difference between columns 2 and 3 in the above statement is due to the elections held by the Municipalities of Harihar and Seringapatam and the District Board of Kadur having been declared invalid, the European and Anglo-Indian Association of Mysore and Coorg, Bangalore, having remained unrepresented and the taluk of Hunsur having returned only two members instead of three.

Three of the above 284 members represented two electorates so that the actual number of persons returned was 281.

Of this number:—

4 were Europeans,
18 „ Mohammedans, and
259 „ Hindus.

Arranged according to occupations:—

58 were Merchants,
12 „ Sahukars or Bankers,
66 „ Village Officers (Patels and Shanbhogs),
108 „ Landholders,
30 „ Lawyers, and
7 followed other professions.

4. The attendance of members at the meetings of the Assembly this year was very satisfactory, 258 having been present out of 281 returned or nearly 92 per cent. This record attendance was due to the favourable seasonal conditions, the absence of plague in the City of Mysore and the increased interest taken by the members in the proceedings of the Assembly.

5. The Hon'ble Col. Sir Hugh Daly, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., the British Resident in Mysore, the European guests of His Highness the Maharaja, the Hon'ble Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas Mehta, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastriar and a large body of retired officers and leading citizens of Mysore were present on the opening day of the Assembly. The members of the State Council, the Heads of various Departments and other principal officers of the State were also present.

6. The proceedings commenced at 12 noon. The Dewan delivered the Annual Address to the Assembly in English and a Kannada translation was subsequently read by Mr. D. M. Narasinga Rao, B.A., B.L., Secretary to Government, General Department.

7. Addresses from the following institutions and bodies were read and presented to the Dewan by the gentlemen named against each :—

1. Kolar Gold Fields Mining Board by Mr. H. M. A. Cooke.
2. North Mysore Planters' Association by Mr. F. I. Morgan.
3. The Central Mohammedan Association, Bangalore, by Mr. Mahomed Abbas Khan.
4. The members of the Koppa Taluk and Narasimharajapura Sub-Taluk by Mr. H. Krishna Rao.
5. The Muslim Association, Tarikere, by Mr. Mir Mahomed Sab.
6. The members of the Representative Assembly by Messrs. M. Venkatakrishnaiya and H. Krishna Sastri.

These addresses with the Dewan's reply thereto are printed in Appendix A.

8. The representations made by the members of the Representative Assembly were discussed at the sittings held from the 20th to 26th October 1915—both days inclusive.

The summary of discussions and the replies of the Government will be found at pages 1 to 88 of this publication.

9. In accordance with the Rules regulating the nomination of four non-official members to the Mysore Legislative Council on the recommendation of the members of the Representative Assembly, the fourth election was conducted on the 22nd October 1915 and the Government were pleased to accept the nomination of the undermentioned gentlemen who secured the largest number of votes :—

1. Mr. M. Basavaiya, B.A., B.L.
2. „ B. Narasinga Rao.
3. „ M. K. Krishnamurthi Rao.
4. „ C. Narasimhaiya, B.A., B.L.

The papers relating to the election are printed in Appendix E.

10. There was a short discussion of the budget on the 26th October, of which, an account is given in Appendix F.

11. At the close of the discussions on the 26th October 1915, the Dewan made a speech in Kanarese summarising the proceedings of the meetings and announcing the gracious orders of His Highness the Maharaja on some of the more important subjects discussed in the Assembly.

The speech is printed in Appendix G.

12. Messrs. Amble Anniah Pandit and Anjaneya Setty of Pavagada replying on behalf of the members, gave expression to their feelings of grateful appreciation of the various beneficent measures introduced by Government for the welfare of the subjects of His Highness the Maharaja and for the encouraging replies given to the several representations made at the sittings of the Assembly. In particular, they thanked the Government for the privileges of budget discussion, and submission of supplementary subjects conceded to the Assembly and concluded by requesting the Dewan to convey to His Highness the Maharaja their sentiments of deep loyalty and gratitude, and their fervent prayer that the disastrous war may come to a speedy termination bringing complete success to the Allies.

D. M. NARASINGA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
General Department.

STATEMENT B.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as they stood on 1st July 1915, in accordance with the preliminary accounts of 1914-15.

(In thousands of rupees.)

	1913-14 Final Accounts	1914-15 Preliminary Accounts	1914-15, + more, or —less, than, 1913-14.
ASSETS.			
Cash Balance	1,01,08	72,27	— 28,81
Surplus Investment Account including fixed deposits .... (Less Depreciation).	3,28,29	2,59,71 —17,53	— 86,11
Loans and Advances	28,98	29,05	+ 7
Departmental Balances	7,92	10,53	+ 2,61
Miscellaneous	....	83	+ 83
Total	4,66,27	3,54,86	—1,11,41
LIABILITIES.			
Savings Bank Deposits	76,94	68,62	— 8,32
State Life Insurance Fund	29,53	32,83	+ 3,30
Charitable endowments	6,12	6,23	+ 11
Permanent Debt	20,33	20,33	....
Local and other Funds	33,93	37,92	+ 3,99
Cauvery Power Scheme Depreciation Fund.	28,50	31,20	+ 2,70
Famine Insurance Reserve	16,00	18,00	+ 2,00
Deposits	12,12	19,96	+ 7,84
Guaranteed Railways	77	17	— 60
Miscellaneous	8,94	....	— 8,94
Total	2,33,18	2,35,26	+ 2,08
Government Balance	2,33,09	1,19,60	—1,13,49
Grand Total	4,66,27	3,54,86	— 1,11,41

STATEMENT A.

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1915-1916.

HEADS OF RECEIPTS	Accounts, 1913-1914.	Revised Estimate, 1914-1915.	Budget Estimate, 1915-1916.
A—Principal Heads of Revenue—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I Land Revenue ...	1,05,36,996	1,03,00,000	1,06,25,000
II Forest ...	33,98,240	17,22,000	17,28,000
III Excise ...	52,23,396	55,00,000	50,00,000
IV Assessed Taxes ...	2,64,946	2,50,000	2,60,000
VII Stamps ...	10,66,314	10,62,000	10,25,000
VIII Registration ...	2,07,496	1,96,000	2,00,000
Total ...	2,06,97,388	1,90,30,000	1,88,38,000
AA—Mining Revenue—			
IX Mining Royalty and Leases ...	19,03,611	20,70,000	18,96,000
B—IXA Surplus Revenue of Bangalore Assigned tract	30,00,000	9,23,000	8,00,000
BB—Interest—			
X Interest ...	1,60,543	15,98,000	9,62,000
XI Profit or Loss ...	13,35,153	(a)	(a)
Total ...	14,95,696	15,98,000	9,62,000
D—Receipts by Civil Departments—			
XIIA Law and Justice—Courts of Law ...	55,529	60,000	55,000
XIIB Law and Justice—Jails ...	32,076	33,000	32,000
XIII Police ...	26,589	28,000	32,000
XIV Education ...	1,84,777	2,11,000	1,89,000
XIVA Agriculture ...	(b)	3,000	2,000
XIVB Industries and Commerce	.....	.....	.....
XV Medical ...	1,11,232	1,06,000	1,11,000
XVA Sanitation and Vaccination	(c)	16,000	17,000
XVI Scientific and other Minor Departments	1,10,871	82,000	92,000
Total ...	5,21,074	5,39,000	5,30,000
E—Miscellaneous—			
XVII Receipts in aid of Superannuation Allowances and Pensions ...	2,607	3,000	13,000
XVIII Stationery and Printing ...	13,506	10,000	10,000
XIX Miscellaneous ...	2,15,149	1,91,000	1,80,000
Total ...	2,31,261	2,04,000	2,03,000
G—Military Receipts—			
XX Army ...	78,704	88,000	64,000
XXA Military Works ...	10,220	7,000	10,000
Total ...	88,924	95,000	74,000

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE	Accounts, 1913-1914.	Revised Estimate, 1914-1915.	Budget Estimate, 1915-1916.
A—Direct Demands on the Revenue—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Refunds and Drawbacks	2,50,946	1,98,000	1,95,000
1A. Assignments and Compensation ...	(a)	64,000	95,000
Charges in respect of Collection, *viz.*—			
2. Land Revenue ...	19,36,236	18,98,000	19,71,000
3. Forest ...	9,07,008	10,35,000	8,84,000
4. Excise ...	3,39,296	3,46,000	3,59,000
8. Stamps ...	48,525	47,000	49,000
9. Registration ...	86,412	89,000	92,000
Total ...	35,68,423	36,77,000	36,45,000
AA—10. Charges against Mining Revenue ...	2,12,740	2,12,000	2,37,000
BB—Interest—			
11. Interest on Ordinary Debt ...	78,888	88,000	4,45,000
12. Interest on other Obligations ...	3,47,799	3,46,000	3,92,000
13. Profit or Loss ...	501	(b)	(b)
Total ...	4,27,188	4,34,000	8,37,000
C—14. Palace ...	22,93,324	23,22,000	23,50,000
D—Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments—			
15. General Administration	12,15,881	10,67,000	11,53,000
16A. Law and Justice—Courts of Law ...	8,36,269	8,47,000	9,03,000
16B. Law and Justice—Jails	1,32,124	1,36,000	1,52,000
17. Police ...	10,00,641	10,89,000	10,99,000
18. Education ...	13,18,370	16,03,000	20,24,000
18A. Agriculture ...	(c)	1,26,000	2,31,000
18B. Industries and Commerce ...	(c)	1,18,000	1,75,000
19. Muzrai or Religious and Charitable Institutions	3,52,294	3,55,000	3,59,000
20. Medical ...	8,03,928	6,44,000	6,71,000
20A. Sanitation and Vaccination ...	(d)	1,87,000	2,41,000
21. Scientific and other Minor Departments...	4,15,314	3,34,000	3,50,000
Total ...	60,74,811	65,06,000	73,58,000
E—Miscellaneous Civil Charges—			
22. Civil Furlough Allowances	...	...	...
23. Allowances and Assignments under Treaties and Engagements ...	81,694	84,000	86,000
24. Superannuation Allowances and Pensions ...	7,81,570	7,96,000	8,24,000
25. Stationery and Printing ...	2,29,149	2,47,000	2,93,000
26. Miscellaneous ...	4,09,173	8,42,000	9,02,000
Total ...	15,01,586	19,69,000	21,05,000
G—Army and Defence—			
27. Army ...	13,46,732	64,05,000	15,91,000
27A. Subsidy to British Government ...	35,00,000	35,00,000	35,00,000
27B. Military Works ...	93,637	1,11,000	78,000
Total ...	49,40,369	1,00,16,000	51,69,000
F—Famine Relief and Insurance—			
28. Famine Relief ...	— 14	.....	.....
29. Reduction or Avoidance of Debt ...	3,33,333	3,33,000	3,33,000
Total ...	3,33,319	3,33,000	3,33,000
H—State Railways—Revenue Accounts—			
30. State Railways worked by the M. & S. M. Railway Company ...	7,16,856	7,20,000	7,20,000
30A. Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure ...	8,110	1,56,000	1,47,000
Total ...	7,24,966	8,76,000	8,67,000
J—Irrigation—			
31. Major works ...	24,78,230	3,51,000	5,84,000
32. Minor works ...	1,58,986	3,03,000	3,37,000
K—Public Works—			
33. Civil works ...	21,13,120	23,78,000	21,71,000
Total ...	47,50,336	30,32,000	30,92,000

(a) Included under X Interest.
(b) Included under XVI Scientific and other Minor Departments.
(c) Included under XV Medical.

(a) Included under respective heads.
(b) Included under 12 Interest on other obligations.
(c) Included under 21 Scientific and other Minor Departments.
(d) Included under 20 Medical.

Continued on the next page.]

STATEMENT A.—BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1915-16—*concld.*

HEADS OF RECEIPTS	Accounts, 1913-14.	Revised Estimate, 1914-15.	Budget Estimate, 1915-16.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
H—Railways—Revenue Account—			
XXI State Railways worked by the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company	16,05,728	13,04,000	13,03,000
XXIA State Railways worked by Government ...	.....	.....	44,000
Total ...	16,05,728	13,04,000	13,47,000
K—XXII Public Works ...	3,44,014	2,98,000	2,52,000
L—XXIII Cauvery Power Scheme ...	17,03,888	17,58,000	25,00,000
Total Revenue and Receipts...	3,15,91,584	2,78,14,000	2,74,02,000
Deficit ...	.....	28,01,000	.....
Grand Total ...	3,15,91,584	3,06,15,000	2,74,02,000

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE	Accounts, 1913-14.	Revised Estimate, 1914-15.	Budget Estimate, 1915-16.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
KK—Capital outlay on State Railways—			
34. Open lines worked by M. & S. M. Railway Company ...	10,12,195	3,68,000	4,00,000
Bangalore Electric Tramways— Capital Expenditure ...	48,284	.....	(e)
L—Cauvery Power Scheme—			
35. Revenue Account ...	7,30,397	7,43,000	7,46,000
36. Capital Account ...	9,37,235	1,27,000	2,31,000
Total ...	16,67,632	8,70,000	9,77,000
Total Expenditure ...	2,75,55,173	3,06,15,000	2,73,70,000
Deduct—Outlay on Capital Works	...	...	...
Surplus ...	40,36,411	...	32,000
Grand Total ...	3,15,91,584	3,06,15,000	2,74,02,000
N—Capital outlay not charged to Revenue—			
37. Cauvery Reservoir and allied works ...	* 21,44,245	32,50,000	25,00,000
38. Capital outlay on State Railways and Steam Tramways ...	* 6,04,845	35,04,000	26,35,000
39. Subsidised or Aided Railways ...	* 7,36,733	9,38,000	7,00,000
40. Bangalore Electric Tramways ...	* 48,284	4,000	6,00,000
41. Cauvery Power Scheme, IV Installation ...	* 8,36,182	10,00,000	2,00,000
Total ...	* 43,70,239	86,96,000	66,35,000

(e) Provided under "N Capital outlay not charged to Revenue."

* Charges included under service heads.

104. The present low standard of living, as past experience has shown, is a source of danger. It leaves no margin for bad times. Our rainfall is so uncertain that a break in the monsoon, such as we experienced in August last, keeps our population in a state of anxious suspense. A partial failure of rain is attended with much suffering and a severe drought may cause even loss of life. The poorer classes who are sensitive to the calamities of the seasons require training in diligence and thrift. By steady labour for three or four years, a working man can lay by enough money or grain, for himself and family, to tide over a couple of years of scarcity or distress. There is abundant demand for well-paid labour in the country at present and no honest labourer has any excuse for neglecting such an insurance against a year of scarcity. The people should get accustomed to work longer hours and take more largely to industries, manufactures and trade. If these conditions are fulfilled, famines would be as rare in this land as they have become rare, on account of similar precautions, in European countries.

13.—Conclusion.

105. I have placed the ideals of advanced countries before you, because it is safe for us to follow the well-trodden paths of people already in the van of progress. It may be that, on account of climatic and other conditions, we shall never be able to reach their level of efficiency and prosperity. But that is no reason why we should not strive for what is within our reach, namely, to raise our standards, and double or treble our earning capacity in the near future. The very low level at which we stand is itself a measure of the opportunities before the country, and an augury that our efforts will meet with a speedy reward.

106. Government are doing what little they can to promote the efficiency of the people; but their efforts will not avail much without an access of activity and enthusiasm on the part of the public themselves. It is our hope that the more enlightened representatives of the people will study the situation, realise the seriousness of it and endeavour to co-operate with Government in the execution of the various measures of reform and progress to which we

have put our hand. The co-operation is needed both from the official and the non-official public, and it should be co-operation which suggests and asks for opportunities to make itself useful, instead of waiting for a call.

107. It is pleasing to observe that the co-operation we need has also begun to come. Last year, I acknowledged the services of about 60 members of this Assembly in connection with the village improvement scheme, and this year, it is my privilege to thank some 200 influential persons throughout the State, many of whom are members of this Assembly, for help rendered in connection with the Economic Conference movement. After such a gratifying response, His Highness' Government have no doubt that, in the present and future years, more of this informal but invaluable assistance, will be forthcoming.

108. Gentlemen, you will agree that this Address would be incomplete if I failed to voice the widespread feeling of regret which His Highness the Maharaja and his subjects feel at the approaching termination of the beneficent Viceroyalty of His Excellency Lord Hardinge. His Excellency has been a sincere well-wisher and a warm-hearted friend in whose sympathy and sense of justice the Native States have learnt to place implicit confidence.

Also, I know you will feel much regret if I remind you that this will be perhaps the last occasion on which the Hon'ble Col. Sir Hugh Daly, our Resident, will attend this function. He came to us with a high reputation, and, during his term of office, the relations of the Durbar with the Residency have been exceedingly frank and cordial. He has been a true friend of the State and has worthily maintained the highest traditions of British statesmanship. He will carry with him, in his retirement, the warm regard of His Highness the Maharaja and the best wishes of the people of Mysore.

M. VISVESVARAYA,
Dewan of Mysore

Other Village Schemes.

99. The other village schemes have only recently begun to work. One hundred and forty-three Village Courts have been established and many of them have begun to hear cases. The number of Tank Panchayets constituted is 65. Proposals are being received for the formation of village forests and are under consideration. A sum of rupees one lakh per annum has been set apart for an extensive programme of well works in villages, in addition to the amounts included for this purpose in the grant to the Village Improvement Scheme and the budgets of the District Boards.

Town Planning.

100. A sum of Rs. 25,000 has been set apart in the current year's budget for town-planning work. The necessity for a Town-Planning Bill has been urged for the consideration of Government.

Malnad Improvement Scheme.

101. The scheme inaugurated in February 1914 for the sanitary and economic improvement of the *malnad* portions of the districts of Shimoga, Kadur and Hassan was in operation during the year. The measures, chiefly adopted on the recommendation of the Committees, related to the shifting of villages from insanitary areas, provision of increased medical and maternity facilities—such as free distribution of quinine, appointment of more midwives and establishment of female hospitals in selected central places, removal of rank vegetation in and round villages, provision of better drinking water, popularising vaccination and spreading elementary education by increasing the number of schools. The Committees have yet to work out plans for increasing communications, for relieving agricultural indebtedness, for better drainage in villages and for providing more occupations to the people, such as minor industries connected with forest produce. The problem of labour supply in the *malnad* is one of the most important subjects engaging the attention of the Committees. The operations of the Committees were greatly hampered at the beginning by the difficulty and delay in finding suitable subordinate staff for the executive work of the improvement scheme.

12.—A Comparative View.

102. From the list of measures of improvement and reform which I have just enumerated, many people in this country may perhaps be inclined to the view that

everything is all right with us, that we are attempting too much rather than too little and that there is small need for further effort. But this is not so. A closer view, you will see, reveals an unsatisfactory state of things.

The test of a country's condition must be based, after all, on its relative position with reference to more advanced countries in all the essentials that constitute progress. Let us see how we stand under this test in a few respects.

Taking education first, the literate population in Mysore numbered 6 per cent in 1911. It is perhaps 8 per cent now. In progressive countries, the proportion is over 80 per cent.

103. Occupation and production in the country are chiefly confined to the most primitive of professions in the world, *viz.*, agriculture. The total production in Mysore is valued at Rs. 31 per head. The corresponding figures for Canada and Australia are reported to be Rs. 1,110 and Rs. 621 respectively.

Recently, the Bureau of Standards of the New York Board of Estimate found, upon enquiry, that the lowest yearly income upon which an unskilled labourer's family of five in that City can maintain a standard of living, consistent with American ideals, was Rs. 2,520. This is equivalent to Rs. 504 per head or more than sixteen times the Mysore average.

The figures available for our local trade show that the yearly exports and imports together amount to Rs. 26 per head. The corresponding figures for Canada and Australia are Rs. 480 and Rs. 495 respectively, that is, about eighteen times that of Mysore.

We obtain nearly all the manufactured articles, which require science, skill and enterprise to produce, from foreign countries and pay for them by exporting from the country food and other raw products, in some years at the risk of underfeeding our local population.

Neither the abundant natural resources of the country nor the vast stores of brain energy of the people are properly cultivated and utilised to increase production and wealth in the country.

The country suffers from a low level of industry, a low level of education, a low standard of earning and living, a low capacity for co-operation and low ideals of aspiration and effort generally. There is no gainsaying the fact that a wide gulf divides us, from the more advanced people, in all that constitutes prosperity and enlightenment.

104. The present low standard of living, as past experience has shown, is a source of danger. It leaves no margin for bad times. Our rainfall is so uncertain that a break in the monsoon, such as we experienced in August last, keeps our population in a state of anxious suspense. A partial failure of rain is attended with much suffering and a severe drought may cause even loss of life. The poorer classes who are sensitive to the calamities of the seasons require training in diligence and thrift. By steady labour for three or four years, a working man can lay by enough money or grain, for himself and family, to tide over a couple of years of scarcity or distress. There is abundant demand for well-paid labour in the country at present and no honest labourer has any excuse for neglecting such an insurance against a year of scarcity. The people should get accustomed to work longer hours and take more largely to industries, manufactures and trade. If these conditions are fulfilled, famines would be as rare in this land as they have become rare, on account of similar precautions, in European countries.

13.—Conclusion.

105. I have placed the ideals of advanced countries before you, because it is safe for us to follow the well-trodden paths of people already in the van of progress. It may be that, on account of climatic and other conditions, we shall never be able to reach their level of efficiency and prosperity. But that is no reason why we should not strive for what is within our reach, namely, to raise our standards, and double or treble our earning capacity in the near future. The very low level at which we stand is itself a measure of the opportunities before the country, and an augury that our efforts will meet with a speedy reward.

106. Government are doing what little they can to promote the efficiency of the people; but their efforts will not avail much without an access of activity and enthusiasm on the part of the public themselves. It is our hope that the more enlightened representatives of the people will study the situation, realise the seriousness of it and endeavour to co-operate with Government in the execution of the various measures of reform and progress to which we

Hand-books.

87. In addition to compilations of departmental interest, hand-books of general information have been prepared for all the districts and, with the exception of those for Kadur and Chitaldrug, have also been printed. Several Taluk hand-books have been completed. Booklets giving essential facts have been published in respect of nearly twenty Municipal towns. Compilations of this character will be useful to officials as well as the non-official public, and are intended to help people to think in definite figures instead of in vague generalities, when questions connected with improvements and expenditure come up for consideration.

11.—Development and other Special Schemes.

88. In describing the operations of the several departments, I have already dealt with some of the special measures undertaken by Government. It might probably be an advantage to give here a perspective view of what is being done in two important directions, *viz.*, the development of the natural resources of the country and the improvement of the efficiency of the people.

Development of Natural Resources.

Roads.

89. Taking communications first, we have at present a road mileage of one mile for every 1,047 inhabitants and one mile per 5·5 square miles of country. Very few new roads have been constructed in recent years and more road mileage is needed in many tracts; but the work is retarded because District Boards have not the wherewithal to provide for the high cost of maintenance.

Railways.

90. Owing to the cessation of all Railway activity for over twelve years, the State lagged behind the rest of India in railway development. Till 1912, the progress on rail road construction was 1 mile for every 12,554 inhabitants while the corresponding figure for all India was 1 mile per 8,873. A Railway Construction Department was organised in 1912, and since then project estimates amounting to Rs. 96 lakhs have been sanctioned. I have already referred to the progress made in the construction of each of these projects. The system of levying a railway cess has greatly facilitated the construction of feeder railways. If the people of the districts who appear to be keen on railways raise the necessary capital locally, as

some of them have already done, in addition to paying a cess, an ideal state of things will have been brought into existence for the extension of railways. When the new lines are completed and brought into working order, our railway system, besides affording occupations to the people and bringing the local producer and the manufacturer into closer touch with the markets of the world, will also form a remunerative investment bringing a steady annual revenue to the State.

Hydro-Electric Power Works.

91. There is increased demand for power supply and there is also scope for further extension of the Cauvery Power Scheme. Alternative projects for increasing the power supply are under investigation.

Cauvery Reservoir and irrigation in the Cauvery Valley.

92. The first stage of the Cauvery Reservoir is expected to be completed in 1916-17. The storage already secured is sufficient to guarantee the stipulated power supply to the mines and the works have begun to earn an enhanced revenue of Rs. 6 to 8 lakhs per annum from July last. The construction of subsidiary works, intended mainly to bring under command land meant to be given in exchange for the area submerged in the bed of the Reservoir, and to enable the drowned-out raiyats to settle down in the neighbourhood of their old villages, has been sanctioned at an aggregate cost of about Rs. 21½ lakhs. The works will also afford irrigation facilities to a large extent of land, already under private holding, and are expected to prove remunerative to Government.

Major and Minor Tanks.

93. I have referred elsewhere to the revision of the rules for the restoration of minor tanks sanctioned during the year in accordance with the understanding arrived at in this Assembly last year. The question of the restoration of the major tanks in the State is also receiving consideration. In future, the selection of these tanks for restoration or repairs will be more systematic, and will depend on the relative importance of the tanks in point of revenue or their special value to the raiyats of the localities concerened.

Another question requiring careful attention is as regards the measures necessary to make up for the loss in capacity due to the silting up of these reservoirs and to establish a closer correspondence between their capacity and the *atchkat* below. It is not intended to undertake immediately an extensive survey all over the State but such of the tanks, particularly in the Kolar District, as may have failed to answer the requirements of cultivation will be examined and suitable remedies adopted.

Development of Forest Resources.

94. The normal forest revenue of the State may be taken at about Rs. 22 lakhs though, in the years immediately preceding the war, a very much larger revenue was being realised owing to the exceptionally good prices secured for sandalwood. We are advised that there are great possibilities of augmenting our forest revenues by developing communications and carrying operations into the interior of the forests. Lack of communications has been a great difficulty in working these forests on a commercial scale. The construction of the Tarikere-Narasimharajapura Tramway is expected to greatly assist the department in exploiting forest areas hitherto untouched. The forest staff is being strengthened for the same purpose.

Development of Mineral Resources.

95. Our mineral resources await exploitation. There are possibilities in the iron deposits of the Bababudans and a profitable industry in iron and steel may be created if the problem of smelting iron ore with charcoal on a commercial scale is satisfactorily solved. Government recently engaged the services of an expert, Mr. C. P. Perin, Consulting Engineer to the Tata Iron & Steel Company, to examine and report on the prospects of an iron and steel industry and though his detailed report has not yet been received, his general opinion is understood to be favourable.

Improving the Efficiency of the People.

96. The chief agency for the improvement of the people is education. I have already dealt with this subject in another part of the Address. His Highness the Maharaja is anxious for the more rapid spread of education and provision of increased facilities for elementary and higher professional training. With the establishment of a University now under consideration, His Highness hopes to make the educational system in the State self-contained and better adapted to the needs of the country.

The operations of the Economic Conference have already been described. With the aid of this agency Government are doing all they can to spread sound and up-to-date ideas about economic improvement in the country, to make the people think and act for themselves and to help private industrial activities in various ways.

With a view to revive the old village communal spirit, schemes relating to Village Improvement, Minor Tanks, Rural Water-supply, Village Forests, Village Courts and Tank Panchayets, have been introduced.

97. Of these the one that is full of hopeful auguries for the future is the Village Improvement Scheme. During the two years it has been in operation, 7,745 Village Committees have been constituted for 13,360 villages or about 79 per cent of the total number of villages in the State. In 2,966 villages, the Committees are reported to be holding weekly gatherings regularly for attending to works of improvement and sanitation in and around villages. In 2,659 villages, newspapers are being subscribed for, and 2,039 Village Committees have been holding weekly meetings for disseminating useful information. The value of works of permanent utility undertaken during the year is estimated at Rs. 2·75 lakhs of which the villagers' voluntary contribution in cash or by labour amounted to Rs. 1·5 lakhs, the balance being met by Government. The actual amount spent by the Committees during the year 1914-15 amounted to about Rs. 75,000. *Village Improvement Scheme.*

It is gratifying to note that the advantages of the scheme have been fully realised by the villagers who are co-operating cordially with Government officers.

98. The scheme may be said to have passed the experimental stage and it is necessary to consider on what lines its further development may best be attempted. Some steps are necessary in the coming year to bring every village and hamlet in the State under the operations of the scheme. Hitherto, the Committees have been working on a voluntary basis; but frequent representations have been made to Government officers that the provisions of the scheme may be placed on a statutory footing. Perhaps it may not be desirable at this stage for Government to make the scheme compulsory for every village. An alternative course would be to leave it to the villagers themselves to decide in favour of compulsion or otherwise. Where not less than three-fourths of the inhabitants of any village vote for such a step, the scheme may be made obligatory. In that case, the villagers should be given the option to contribute labour or pay a cess in lieu of personal service, the amount of the cess and the exemptions to be granted being settled by the Village Committee. In every case the money collected will remain with the Committee and will be spent by them. If there is sufficient support forthcoming from the public, Government will have no objection to undertake legislation on these or similar lines.

Other Village Schemes.

99. The other village schemes have only recently begun to work. One hundred and forty-three Village Courts have been established and many of them have begun to hear cases. The number of Tank Panchayets constituted is 65. Proposals are being received for the formation of village forests and are under consideration. A sum of rupees one lakh per annum has been set apart for an extensive programme of well works in villages, in addition to the amounts included for this purpose in the grant to the Village Improvement Scheme and the budgets of the District Boards.

Town Planning.

100. A sum of Rs. 25,000 has been set apart in the current year's budget for town-planning work. The necessity for a Town-Planning Bill has been urged for the consideration of Government.

Malnad Improvement Scheme.

101. The scheme inaugurated in February 1914 for the sanitary and economic improvement of the *malnad* portions of the districts of Shimoga, Kadur and Hassan was in operation during the year. The measures, chiefly adopted on the recommendation of the Committees, related to the shifting of villages from insanitary areas, provision of increased medical and maternity facilities—such as free distribution of quinine, appointment of more midwives and establishment of female hospitals in selected central places, removal of rank vegetation in and round villages, provision of better drinking water, popularising vaccination and spreading elementary education by increasing the number of schools. The Committees have yet to work out plans for increasing communications, for relieving agricultural indebtedness, for better drainage in villages and for providing more occupations to the people, such as minor industries connected with forest produce. The problem of labour supply in the *malnad* is one of the most important subjects engaging the attention of the Committees. The operations of the Committees were greatly hampered at the beginning by the difficulty and delay in finding suitable subordinate staff for the executive work of the improvement scheme.

12.—A Comparative View.

102. From the list of measures of improvement and reform which I have just enumerated, many people in this country may perhaps be inclined to the view that

their finances. The Local Finance Committee which dealt with this question has recommended that the Local Funds General and the Village School Fund should be abolished as distinct funds and made over to Local Boards and that the mohatarfa now credited to State Funds should also be assigned to Local Bodies. In addition to the assignment of these revenues, they were in favour of large grants-in-aid from Government. These recommendations involve considerable expenditure from State revenues and require further consideration before Government are able to accept them.

80. I have outlined a few of the salient features of the proposals which have tentatively commended themselves to Government, with a view to obtain the opinion of this Assembly in case the members desire to offer any suggestions.

10.—Efficiency of the Administration.

Efficiency Audit.

81. The efficiency audit staff of the General Secretariat continued to devote attention to questions connected with the efficiency of the services. A further development in the lines of work has been lately sanctioned by making the services of the staff available to Heads of Departments and Deputy Commissioners for the investigation of irregularities, etc., in Government departments and offices.

Efficiency of Departments and Offices.

82. Several measures have been undertaken for ensuring system and regularity in the various branches of the administration. As stated already, greater uniformity is being introduced in the work of the Secretariats. The departments are being re-organised and establishments revised, one by one, with a view to placing their working on an up-to-date basis. A set of sample rules has been issued in order to standardise office methods, and in the case of the larger offices requiring more elaborate instructions, the rules have been expanded into office manuals. Eight of these manuals have been recently prepared. Rules have been framed to secure prompt consideration of petitions, and the question of introducing a new system of correspondence and record arrangement in Government offices with a view to greater celerity and orderliness in

the disposal of public business is engaging the consideration of Government. The systematic inspection of all offices at periodical intervals has been arranged for, and returns of business statistics have been prescribed in order that the state of inspection and office work of Heads of Departments and Deputy Commissioners may come to the notice of Government.

Personnel.

83. The question of the personnel of the services also received considerable attention during the year. Certain suggestions indicating the standards of efficiency and conduct to which Government officers are expected to conform have been issued, and it is hoped that compliance with them, which is at present largely a matter of discipline, will soon become one of habit. A new system of qualification reports has been instituted in order to enable Government to obtain, from time to time, more detailed information than has been hitherto available regarding the work and capacity of the several officers. A scheme for encouraging officers to visit foreign countries has been lately sanctioned.

The Civil Service.

84. The second examination under the new Civil Service Scheme will be held in November next. There were 45 applicants of whom 27 have been admitted to the examination. Orders have been recently passed with a view to rendering the training of Probationary Assistant Commissioners more practical.

Recruitment and Training of Officials

85. The rules governing the recruitment and promotion of subordinate officials have also been examined, and it is under contemplation to introduce some changes calculated to afford greater encouragement to men of high educational attainments and to eliminate irregularities in the exercise of patronage. No system of recruitment can be deemed sound unless it gives preference to merit rather than to seniority, and secures a fair representation of all communities, as far as possible, in the public service. The question of giving systematic training to subordinate officials in the technique and principles of their work and in the elements of public administration, is also engaging attention.

District Administration.

86. With a view to ensure efficiency in the District administration, and to take stock of progress made in the various special schemes, tours have been undertaken by the Members of Council and the Dewan, and during the year, 51 taluks and 5 sub-taluks were visited. The important wants and grievances of taluks have been catalogued, in order that continuous attention may be bestowed upon them both by officers of Government and the people.

Hand-books.

87. In addition to compilations of departmental interest, hand-books of general information have been prepared for all the districts and, with the exception of those for Kadur and Chitaldrug, have also been printed. Several Taluk hand-books have been completed. Booklets giving essential facts have been published in respect of nearly twenty Municipal towns. Compilations of this character will be useful to officials as well as the non-official public, and are intended to help people to think in definite figures instead of in vague generalities, when questions connected with improvements and expenditure come up for consideration.

11.—Development and other Special Schemes.

88. In describing the operations of the several departments, I have already dealt with some of the special measures undertaken by Government. It might probably be an advantage to give here a perspective view of what is being done in two important directions, *viz.*, the development of the natural resources of the country and the improvement of the efficiency of the people.

Development of Natural Resources.

Roads.

89. Taking communications first, we have at present a road mileage of one mile for every 1,047 inhabitants and one mile per 5·5 square miles of country. Very few new roads have been constructed in recent years and more road mileage is needed in many tracts; but the work is retarded because District Boards have not the wherewithal to provide for the high cost of maintenance.

Railways.

90. Owing to the cessation of all Railway activity for over twelve years, the State lagged behind the rest of India in railway development. Till 1912, the progress on rail road construction was 1 mile for every 12,554 inhabitants while the corresponding figure for all India was 1 mile per 8,873. A Railway Construction Department was organised in 1912, and since then project estimates amounting to Rs. 96 lakhs have been sanctioned. I have already referred to the progress made in the construction of each of these projects. The system of levying a railway cess has greatly facilitated the construction of feeder railways. If the people of the districts who appear to be keen on railways raise the necessary capital locally, as

74. As stated in my Address last year, a scheme of work has been laid down for the department for the next three years, and additional establishment has been temporarily sanctioned in order that the programme may be carried out. The revision of the *Mysore Gazetteer*, which has been undertaken by this department, has made fair progress. *Archæological Department.*

75. The question of improving the hill stations in the State has engaged the consideration of Government, and it has been decided that a beginning should be made with Nandidroog. The bungalows on the hill have been renovated and several conveniences have been provided for visitors. This hill possesses unique advantages of scenery and climate and it is to be hoped that the measures taken, synchronising as they do with the advent of the railway to the neighbourhood, will serve to revive the popularity which the place enjoyed in the days of the British Commission. The other hill stations, which will probably be taken up for improvement as funds become available, will be the Chamundi Hill near Mysore, the Devaroydrug near Tumkur, and Kalhathigiri on the Bababudans. *Hill Stations.*

9.—Local Self-Government.

76. The number of Municipalities at the end of June 1915 was 89, of which 36 were governed by the Municipal Regulation. The income of all Municipalities in the State during the year amounted to Rs. 10,80,920, and the expenditure to Rs. 9,98,136. Including previous accumulations, there was a balance of Rs. 10,65,432 at the end of the year in favour of the Municipalities. *Municipalities.*

The Mysore Municipal Regulation was amended, so as to empower Municipalities, amongst other things, to raise loans, with the sanction of Government, for constructing works of a permanent nature.

The Bangalore City Improvement Committee, the formation of which was referred to in my last Address, submitted a preliminary report dealing with the more urgent requirements of the City. Government have recently passed orders approving generally of the Committee's proposals, and agreeing as funds become available to

bear a substantial share of the cost of the improvements, if the Municipal Council are prepared to bear the remainder.

Government have also sanctioned certain proposals of the Mysore Improvement Trust Board for improvements to the Mysore City. The proposals include extensions to the Devaraj Market, re-laying the market square, construction of a new Municipal office and a scheme for housing the poor. In view of the increase in the number of works to be undertaken, the grant to the Trust Board has been temporarily raised to 3½ lakhs per annum.

District Boards.

77. The receipts under District Funds amounted to Rs. 13,23,503 and the expenditure to Rs. 11,18,846. The income and expenditure under Local Funds General were Rs. 2,06,470 and Rs. 1,58,400, respectively. In exercise of the power recently conferred on District Boards, a Railway cess was for the first time levied in the Kolar District which yielded a revenue of over Rs. 47,000. The District Boards of Tumkur and Chitaldrug have been authorised to collect a similar cess in their districts from 1st July last. The District Board of Shimoga are raising funds for the construction of railways in the interior of that district.

Reforms in Local Self-Government.

78. The question of introducing reforms in Local Self-Government in municipal and rural areas with a view to placing it on a more popular basis has been the subject of earnest consideration for some time past. To examine the subject from various points of view, Government appointed two Committees, one presided over by Mr. M. Kantaraj Urs, c.s.r., to deal with the constitution and functions of local bodies, and the other with Rajamantra Pravina Mr. C. Srinivasiengar, as Chairman, to consider the question of the improvement of their financial resources. The reports of the two Committees have been published for general information. Their recommendations were also discussed at the Local Boards and Municipal Conference held in Mysore in June last, under the presidency of Mr. K. P. Puttanna Chetty. It is worthy of note that this Conference owed its origin and success chiefly to non-official initiative.

It is generally admitted that Local Self-Government in Mysore has not progressed satisfactorily and that local bodies are not playing their legitimate *rôle* in the administration of the country. The apathy displayed by these bodies is attributed chiefly to a deficiency in the elected popular element and to the want of reasonable

powers of control over their own funds. His Highness' Government have therefore come to the conclusion that steps should be taken to associate the representatives of the people more largely with the administration of local affairs.

79. The main lines on which Government propose to take action may be briefly referred to here.

In regard to Municipal Councils it is proposed to constitute three classes of Municipalities, *viz.*, 'City,' 'Town' and 'Minor', on the basis of population. The elected element will be not less than two-thirds in City, half in Town, and one-third in Minor Municipalities. Presidents in selected cases, and Vice-Presidents more largely than now, may be elected in City and Town Municipal Councils. Larger powers will be conceded to the Councils as regards establishments, works and budget. The scrutiny of Government over budgets will be limited to a few specified points. The effect of these changes will be to increase very largely the popular character of the Councils and the powers they can exercise within their areas.

As regards the constitution of the District and other rural Boards, the proportion of the elected element will be raised to at least two-thirds in the case of District Boards, and at least half in the case of Taluk Boards and Unions. It is proposed to sanction, with some modifications, the recommendations of the Local Self-Government Committee that the Taluk Boards and Unions should not be merely the agents of District Boards but should have a real corporate existence, independent funds and budget, and should be able to exercise within their own jurisdiction all the functions of the District Board. The powers of rural bodies with regard to establishment and budget will also be increased.

An important change is contemplated regarding the enlargement of the functions of these bodies. It is proposed to transfer tentatively the control over primary education, medical relief and veterinary dispensaries to selected local bodies and to invest the District and Taluk Boards with power to pass and submit resolutions for the consideration of Government in matters, which, though not coming within the sphere of their ordinary duties, relate to local wants and grievances and the administration of the district or taluk generally.

The chief difficulty which hampers the progress of Local Bodies is the general unsatisfactory condition of

their finances. The Local Finance Committee which dealt with this question has recommended that the Local Funds General and the Village School Fund should be abolished as distinct funds and made over to Local Boards and that the mohatarfa now credited to State Funds should also be assigned to Local Bodies. In addition to the assignment of these revenues, they were in favour of large grants-in-aid from Government. These recommendations involve considerable expenditure from State revenues and require further consideration before Government are able to accept them.

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With a view to the better utilisation of the mineral resources of the State, the Department of Geology was re-organised in February last. This department was started in 1894 with a definite programme for carrying out a complete geological survey of the State, publishing geological maps and bulletins, and training young men as geologists and mining engineers. This programme was tentative and after a careful consideration, a revised programme has now been sanctioned, with a view to ensure greater attention by the department to the investigation of questions having a direct economic interest. The production and manufacture of special metals, such as pig-iron and steel, ferro-manganese, ferro-chrome, etc., and the question of iron smelting, are some of the more important matters on which the department will concentrate attention in the near future.

To help the public to take a practical interest in the development of mineral resources, the department will shortly publish a brief bulletin, in English and Kannada, giving an account of the mineral resources and metallurgical possibilities of the State. Steps have also been taken to train a few young men as qualified geologists and mining engineers to meet the needs of the department as well as of private capitalists interested in mining.

8—Miscellaneous Departments.

Muzrai Department.

72. The report of the Muzrai Committee referred to in last year's Address is still engaging the consideration of Government. Rules have been issued under Sections 13, 15 and 35 of the Muzrai Regulation, dealing with the maintenance of accounts in religious and charitable institutions, the conduct of business by Dharmadarsis and other cognate matters.

Government Press.

73. There was an increase in the outturn of work during the year both in the Central Press at Bangalore and the Branch Press at Mysore. The expenditure was Rs. 1,12,096 and Rs. 6,540 respectively against Rs. 1,05,484 and Rs. 6,048 in the previous year. The number of books and periodicals registered during the year was 124 as against 117 in the previous year. Copyright was taken for 50 new books.

74. As stated in my Address last year, a scheme of work has been laid down for the department for the next three years, and additional establishment has been temporarily sanctioned in order that the programme may be carried out. The revision of the *Mysore Gazetteer*, which has been undertaken by this department, has made fair progress. *Archæological Department.*

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